

DRAFT GUIDANCE for Water Quality Assessment and Monitoring

The State of Wyoming is authorized to administer the Clean Water Act (CWA) and is responsible for determining impairment of waterbodies and developing Total Maximum Daily Load (pollution) allocations for streams not meeting its water quality standards.

Wyoming BLM will cooperate with the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality (WDEQ) in implementing these provisions of the CWA. Until our existing Memorandum of Understanding with WDEQ is updated to clearly articulate our relative roles and responsibilities in managing water resources on public lands, our allotment assessment and water resource monitoring activities implemented to determine whether Standard #5 is being met will be oriented to providing WDEQ water quality related data, information, and associated recommendations for its subsequent action.

Although BLM will not determine impairment or prepare and implement specific corrective actions to address water quality problems we might perceive existing in waters of the State, we will provide recommendations for the State's 303(d) Listing process (e.g., nominate streams on public land for the 303(d) List if we feel that there is adequate data to indicate a water quality problem exists). We will also cooperate with the WDEQ in developing corrective TMDLs and plans for streams on public lands that the State has determined to be impaired.

Wyoming BLM will employ a screening approach during allotment assessments to determine whether Standard #5 is being met. The following guidelines are offered as the preferred course in executing this task.

1. Check the State's 303(d) List as the starting point for identifying whether water quality standards are being met within allotments scheduled for assessment. Obtain a determination from WDEQ whether water quality standards are being met, i.e., yes, no, or uncertain, for waterbodies within the allotment.

BLM should cooperate with the State in the development of TMDLs for waterbodies on Public Land that WDEQ has already determined are impaired by nonpoint sources of pollution. BLM should prescribe and implement appropriate management actions for other resource problems (i.e., non-water quality problems such as impaired riparian habitat or upland vegetation health) associated with waterbodies WDEQ has determined are unimpaired. If no determination is currently available for any or all waterbodies in the allotment and uncertainty exists, then, proceed to step 2.

2. Gather, compile and analyze existing water quality and related data from BLM sources and from other agencies for indications of water quality problems. Existing PFC,

channel cross section or similar data should be considered in this process.

3. Evaluate the results of allotment assessments (survey actions associated with assessing Standards 1-3) prior to implementing subsequent steps.
 - a. Compile and analyze pertinent assessment data, e.g., new PFC, soil erosion, upland checklist, or other similar data associated with water resource conditions.
 - b. Consider collection of additional data linked to the WDEQ designated uses within the allotment/watershed using repeatable "screening level" inventory methods, e.g., readings of pH, temperature, TDS, DO, photo points, abbreviated macroinvertebrate studies, and channel cross sections. Such data gathering should be designed to address significant resource concerns, e.g., T&E fish. Refer to the attached Water Quality Monitoring Checklist for suggested characteristics that may be monitored for each Class of water. This level of monitoring is optional and dependent upon workload priorities.
4. Based on the assessments completed above, identify whether a water quality problem(s) likely exist(s) and the manner and degree in which activities occurring on public land are contributing. See S&G Implementation Guidelines, i.e., is the perceived water quality problem associated with livestock grazing?
5. If the perceived problem(s) is/are identified as livestock grazing related, initiate corrective actions under Standards 1-3 for other resource problems (i.e., non-water quality problems such as impaired riparian habitat or upland vegetation health) before the next grazing season.
6. Submit the compiled existing/new supporting data to WDEQ with recommendations for:
 - a. Possible listing/delisting of the waterbody through their established nomination procedures.
 - b. Additional follow-up "intensive" water quality monitoring actions by WDEQ to verify the perceived water quality impairment.
7. Work with WDEQ to develop appropriate corrective measures, e.g., BMPs, management plans, or treatments to address the additional impairments (standard violations) that WDEQ has determined based upon its investigations and analysis of BLM input.

WATER QUALITY MONITORING
SCREENING LEVEL CHECKLIST

	pH	DO	TDS (EC)	TEMPER- ATURE	PFC	MACROS
CLASS I	—	—	—	—	—	—
CLASS II	—	—	—	—	—	
CLASS III	—	—	—		—	
CLASS IV			—		—	